

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014

August 24, 1973

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

The recent party convention decided that all transfers of members between branches or branches and at-large status after the convention must be approved by the National Committee. The National Committee has delegated this responsibility to the Political Committee. Thus all transfers of members following the convention must be approved by the Political Committee. Proposals for transfers should be made by the branches in written form and sent to the Political Committee.

Comradely,

Lew Jones (RJ)

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SWP National Office

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TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

During the first two weeks of August two farmworkers in California were killed, others beaten, and many jailed. The full story of these brutal murders is featured in the current issue of The Militant.

The latest developments ensuing from the California growers' reign of terror against the United Farm Workers Union require that we make every possible effort, in close collaboration with local UFWU boycott committees, to alert and mobilize support in the union movement for the striking farmworkers and against the chain stores that are handling scab grapes and lettuce. This means we should undertake the following:

1) Working with others who support the farmworkers to get speakers who are active participants in the grape and lettuce boycott movement before as many union meetings as are being held as soon as possible. (Boycott committees for instance can call all local unions to find out when the next meeting is scheduled, explain who is calling and the reason for calling. Boycott activists may want to go to the local union office to discuss the matter more fully with the local business agent if that seems useful. The urgency of this matter should be stressed.)

Speakers for the farmworkers at union meetings should be prepared to explain the farmworkers struggle and the boycott and to ask for financial contributions to the farmworkers. They should also ask that every local union set up a boycott committee to support the boycott and ask that official representatives and members of the union participate in the planning meetings (where such are held) and on the picket lines.

2) Where we have union members who have been active as individuals in the boycott demonstrations, they should investigate the possibility of forming farmworker support committees in their shop or place of work. If possible they should get the local union to call a special meeting to hear a report of the Delano situation from a representative of the farmworkers union or from the local boycott committee.

3) Supporters of the farmworkers ought to go to the officers of the Central Labor Council and ask for a special point on the agenda of the next CLC meeting (usually they meet weekly) to hear a report on the farmworkers struggle and to take appropriate action. A strong resolution in support of the farmworkers may be drafted in collaboration with interested members of the CLC and/or other unionists.

4) Where feasible, rallies can be called (preferably under the auspices of the Central Labor Council, but not necessarily so) to explain to the general public the crimes committed by the growers of California, in connivance with the law enforcement agencies of that state. Broad coalitions of union, church, Black, Chicano, and all civic leaders could support these rallies. Such rallies would denounce the murderous growers of California and all their allies and supporters -- including the local stores that carry the blood-stained lettuce and grapes.

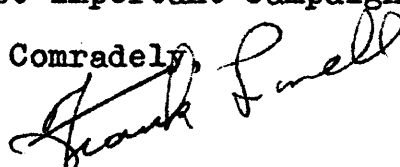
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5) We should support and help to build all mass rallies that can be organized. This is in addition, of course, to the meetings of the Militant Labor Forum that will take up and explain the special significance of the farmworkers strike.

This activity will spur the sale of this issue of The Militant because it contains the best account of the developments in this struggle. There will be follow-up stories. Please let us know if you require extra copies of this issue and if the increase in Militant sales requires an increase in your bundle order.

We are anxious to learn as quickly as possible the progress your branch is making in support of the embattled farmworkers. This information will be passed on to help the efforts of other branches in this most important campaign.

Comradely,



Frank Lovell